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MOTION ON THE SITUATION OF FAMILY PLANNING IN EAST TIMOR*

Through the Portuguese Ecumenical Group "Peace is Possible in East Timor", the Family Planning Association of Portugal was made aware of abuses in the application of the Family Planning Program of the Indonesian Government, "Keluarga Berencana", to the territory of East Timor.

Reports both by the Bishop of Dili, Mons. Belo, and his predecessor Mons. Costa Lopes, and by several Timor citizens (some living there and others abroad) whose name shall not be made public as they fear retaliations both against their families and themselves, show that:

- The pill is massively given out without any information on what it is used for and there is no information whatsoever on Family Planning;

- there is a massive use of injectable hormone methods in 31.7% of the women covered by the program but they are not informed about the purposes of the "injection";

- experiments are carried out with new counterceptive methods but the users are not told of what is done and they are thus used as involuntary guinea pigs;

- there is involuntary sterilization of men and women when they are sent to hospital.

The territory of East Timor is an ex-Portuguese colony. It was militarily occupied by Indonesia in 1975 and declared unilaterally by this latter country as a part of her territory. This anexation has neither been acknowledged by the UN nor by the Portuguese Government which claims the end of military occupation and the right of the people of East Timor to self-determination.

As said above, these abuses are made under the "Keluarga Berencana" Program although, as stated in the rules for its application, this program is not compulsory in East Timor because of the low population density of this territory (30 inhabitants/km^2). The population of Timor Leste has indeed decreased from 680,000 inhabitants in 1975 down to 578,000 in 1984, because of the Indonesian military invasion and occupation. Amnisty International has accused Indonesia of genocide and has estimated the number of deaths in the last 10 years to have been 200,000.

However and paradoxically, Indonesia has been making a disproportionate effort beyond the needs of her Family Planning Policy and there are more Family Planning offices (183 in 1985 and an estimated 250 for 1986) than health centers and offices (129 in 1985).

Furthermore, there is a war status in East Timor and a large part of the health services are provided by the military or by civilians under the latter's control.

According to reports, the coercive use of Family Planning in East Timor has a clear aim: to decrease the population of Timor and replace it through Javanese transmigration and, thus, facilitate the international acceptance of the integration of East Timor in Indonesia.

Although the majority of the public reports on these facts come from the Catholic Church in East Timor, they have always claimed, through Mons. Belo, that they are not against Family Planning and that they will accept the "Keluarga Berengana" program provided however this will be based on prior clarification, information and the express will of the population.

Therefore:

Whereas the principles ruling over IPPF, UN and WHO state that Family Planning is a human right based on a conscious option desired by its users and, therefore, no coercive population policies will be acceptable, and that Family Planning is among primary health care and should, therefore, be implemented through the health services;

Whereas there is a war situation in that territory and anexation by Indonesia was made unilaterally and has not been recognised, REC

1 - hereby condemns the coercive measures taken by the Indonesian Government within its Family Planning Program in East Timor;

2 - hereby appeals to IPPF and its associations so that they will make all possible efforts, particularly through the World Bank, WHO and UNFPA, in such a way as to put an end to these coercive practices which fully oppose the true aims of Family Planning.

* Motion presented at the IPPF'S meeting - London, May 1986